

THE NORMAL ENCEPHALOGRAM. By Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Director of Neurological Surgery, Beth Israel Hospital, New York City; Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, New York University Postgraduate Medical School; and Cornelius G. Dyke, M.D., Late Associate Professor of Radiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Third Edition, Thoroughly Revised. 190 Illustrations on 156 Figures. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1951. 240 pages. \$6.00.

This book has, in its two previous editions, become the standard work in English on the subject. The present edition adds little to that presented before, and the changes would hardly warrant its purchase by one who possesses one of the earlier editions. It is, however, indispensable to the neurologist and neurosurgeon, and indeed to any physician who has occasion to do encephalography or interpret roentgenograms resulting from the procedure. The technique of encephalography is clearly set forth, with the reasons for the appropriate medication, choice of gas, position of the patient, and x-ray technique. Indications and contraindications are considered at length. The illustrations are well chosen and exceptionally well reproduced. In all, the book can be unreservedly recommended.

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1950 YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY (August, 1949 - July, 1950). Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1950. 570 pages. \$5.00.

In 20 pages Greenhill writes the history of obstetrics and gynecology for the past ten years. This serves as an introduction to the 1950 year book, which continues to be a most complete survey of the worthwhile literature of the world.

As would be expected, the monumental work of Hertig and Rock concerning the early ovum is given as one of the important contributions. The comment by the editor should be repeated in a review of this type exactly as written: "In view of the large proportion of defective fertilized ova which never develop normally, we must stop and reflect on our extensive and expensive therapy directed toward the prevention of abortions. Naturally an effort should be made to save a pregnancy whenever possible, but to persist in the presence of repeated episodes of bleeding and uterine cramps is nearly always futile."

There are several articles on erythroblastosis fetalis reviewed in this year's book and the concise statement of the editor should be read by everyone who cares for pregnant women and their offspring. Equally worthwhile is the excellent classification discussed in the chapter on abortion. These definitions should be adopted by all authors, which would do much to clarify nomenclatures and make statistical reports on such material more easily compared.

The year book quiz brings out questions which are constantly being discussed. The answers to some of these questions are:

Cancer is eight times more common in parous than in non-parous women.

In the tuberculous patient, therapeutic abortion is probably never indicated after the first trimester.

Cesarean section is the treatment of choice of transverse presentation in a primigravida with a viable fetus and in a multipara in early labor, especially if membranes rupture prematurely.

A placenta too small for the nutrition of the fetus can cause abortion.

Leukorrhea due to *trichomonas vaginalis* is the leading cause of pruritus vulvae.

There is no real evidence that adoption cures infertility.

External endometriosis is significantly greater in the higher social and economic levels.

Expectant treatment of menorrhagia should never be carried out when it is associated with a pelvic lesion or intermenstrual spotting.

The vaginal mucosa is more sensitive to ovarian hormones than the endometrium.

Having reviewed the "Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology" for the past several years, I feel that the 1950 edition is as fine a review as has ever been published. The editor's notes are those of a seasoned obstetrician and gynecologist and an excellent author.

This book again gives the busy physician a fine summary of the important world literature in this specialty.

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EMOTIONS AND CLINICAL MEDICINE. By Stanley Cobb, M.D., Bullard Professor of Neuropathology, Harvard Medical School, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Massachusetts General Hospital. With an Introduction on Semantics and Definitions by John R. Reid, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University, Visiting Lecturer on Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1950. 243 pages. \$3.00.

This small volume written by a man fundamentally trained in neuropathology but now devoted to psychiatry is interesting from many aspects. In the first place, it is very revealing of the conflicts in discipline between these two branches of medicine, and the compromises effected by Dr. Cobb give some insight into his own personality. This is not a book which gives all the answers to the physician desiring a shortcut to the treatment of what are now popularly called psychosomatic syndromes. It presents, rather, the author's thinking about the relation of the emotions to disease, and, because of his background both in the organic and the functional, is well worth reading. Although at times it is rather uninspired in style, the effort of reading it is repaid by the revelation of how at least some of the concepts set forth by the more progressive schools of psychiatry can be reconciled with what we know of the physiology of the nervous system.

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DISEASES OF WOMEN. By Ten Teachers Under the Direction of Clifford White, M.D. Edited by Clifford White, Frank Cook, and Sir William Gilliatt. Eighth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$5.25.

A book by ten English physicians, which is complete and fairly well illustrated. It presents nothing particularly unusual. The chapter on anatomy seems exceptionally well written. Carcinoma in situ, which receives so much consideration in the United States, is not mentioned.

The style of presentation is quite satisfactory, but there is nothing which makes this book outstanding. It is not a complete, exhaustive survey of the subject, yet it is more than an outline. It seems doubtful, in spite of the fact that this is the eighth edition of a book written under the direction of the late Sir Comyns Berkeley, that it will take an important place in English gynecology.